

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 7, and 11-20 stand allowed. Claims 1, 6, and 8-10 stand rejected. Claims 1, 6, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice to the applicant's rights therein. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to change their dependency to allowed independent claim 2. Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-20 remain pending in this application and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

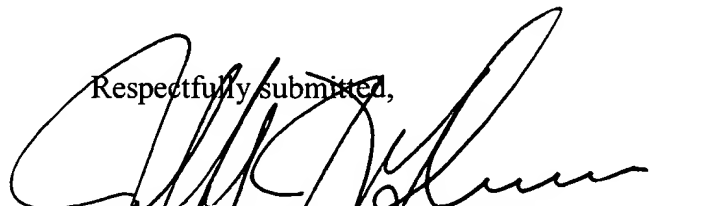
The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration and indication of the allowability of claims 2-5, 7, and 11-20.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Denker (U.S. Patent No. 5,958,053). The applicant respectfully submits that this ground of rejection is moot with regard to claims 1, 6, and 10 in view of the cancellation without prejudice to the applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application. Further, the applicant respectfully submits that this ground of rejection is also moot with regard to claims 8 and 9 in view of the foregoing amendment changing the dependency of these claims to allowed independent claim 2. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection and indication of the allowability of claims 8 and 9 in view of the foregoing amendments are respectfully solicited.

In view of the above, the applicant respectfully submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and indication of the allowability of claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-20 at an early date are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conversation will aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Makeever, Reg. No. 37390
LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
6815 Weaver Road, Suite 300
Rockford, Illinois 61114-8018
(815) 963-7661 (telephone)
(815) 963-7664 (facsimile)

Date: June 24, 2004